



REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office action mailed on January 21, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the above identified amendments have been provided to thoroughly address each of the objections and rejections provided by the examiner in that Office action. In addition, the following remarks are submitted to clarify and explain the importance of the above amendments and to support a finding by the examiner that the claims, as amended, are now in a form warranting allowance of this case. Accordingly, the undersigned respectfully requests reconsideration by the examiner in this case.

At the outset, applicant notes that the drawings and specification of this application have not been objected to or rejected in any way. Hence, once rejections based on the content of the claims of this application are properly addressed, this case should be in proper form for allowance.

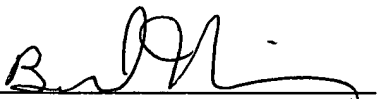
The examiner had indicated at page 3 of the Office action that claims 1-25 are allowed. These claims have been left unamended (with one minor exception) and so should thus maintain their allowable status. Claim 5 had previously depended from claim 4. Claim 5 has been amended to depend directly from claim 1. The requirements of claim 5 and claims dependent from claim 5 do not require the limitations of claim 4 to maintain proper antecedent basis. Hence, this change in dependency of claim 5 is respectfully submitted to be proper. Other than this minor change to claim 5, claims 1-25 have been left unamended and should maintain their allowable status.

The examiner had rejected claims 26, 27, 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dorf et al. "The Engineering Handbook-1996" in view of Papis (U.S. Patent No. 4,438,809). Applicant notes that the examiner had objected to claims 28-30 which depend from rejected claim 26, and indicated that claims 28-30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has canceled claims 26 and 27. Applicant has amended claim 28 to include the requirements of claim 26 and to be placed in

independent form. Accordingly, claims 28-30 now comply with the examiner's suggestion to achieve allowability, and so should thus now be in a form warranting allowable status. Claims 31 and 32, which had been previously rejected under §103, have been amended to depend from amended claim 28. Hence, claims 31 and 32 now include the requirements of both claim 26 and 28, and should thus now warrant allowable status. Applicant has provided new claim 33 for the examiner's consideration. New claim 33 is identical to rejected (and now canceled) claim 27. However, new claim 33 depends from claim 28 and thus benefits from the limitations contained in amended claim 28 and which were considered by the examiner to be allowable. Accordingly, new claim 33 should thus now also be in a form warranting allowable status.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the examiner pass this case to issue. If, upon consideration, the examiner believes further issues remain outstanding or new ones have been generated, the undersigned requests that the examiner call the undersigned to set up a personal or telephone interview with the undersigned to resolve any such remaining issues.

Respectfully Submitted:



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Date